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# NPS, DLI Benevolence Boosts Brains

Chagoya, Javier

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

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NPS, DLI Benevolence Boosts Brains - Today at NPS May 2016 - Naval Postgraduate School

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## Today@NPS



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

## NPS, DLI Benevolence Boosts Brains

By Javier Chagoya

U.S. Army Capt. Ryan Miller, right, watches a child's face light up as Breakfast for Your Brain program tutor Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) Army Spec. Eric King, center, listens raptly to an answer from his young pupil in NPS' Dudley Knox Library, May 7. King and Miller are part of a team of dedicated volunteers for the free Saturday tutoring program open to Monterey County kids.

"I really like teaching children. The Breakfast for Your Brain Program gives me the opportunity to share with kids new ways of solving math problems. The children are like learning sponges — it's a joy to watch," said King.

Over the years, the tutoring program, established by the Monterey chapter of the National Naval Officers Association, has had an ebb and flow of volunteers. With recruitment of a reliable source of volunteers difficult, the benevolent tutoring program had been curbed for the past year.

NPS Department of Applied Mathematics Associate Professor Ralucca Gera picked up the baton. She found overwhelming support and enthusiasm from NPS student Miller who joined in to reinvigorate the program by recruiting a bevy of enthusiastic volunteers.

"Establishing a method of continuity for the leadership role is paramount for the program to flourish. We already have an NPS student who will continue in the leadership role when Capt. Miller graduates in June. I will serve in the continuity role along with the outgoing volunteers to continually groom future leaders," said Gera.

Miller is a master's candidate in applied mathematics, and has served as the current leader of the Breakfast for Your Brains program since January 2016. His team is made up of volunteers from both NPS and DLI, and with the school year nearing its end, the team is about to wrap up their final weekend of helping kids with their math, science and other homework projects.

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## May 2016

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### May 16, 2016

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### May 12, 2016

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### May 11, 2016

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### May 10, 2016

NPS Observes Holocaust Remembrance Day

### May 9, 2016

Promotion and Tenure Ceremony Highlights Faculty Efforts

### May 6, 2016

UC Merced Professor Discusses Robotics and Risk Management with NPS' CRUSER

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"Each tutor works with up to three children that cover subjects ranging from reading, writing, English, history, geography and Earth sciences. The parents of the children appreciate the reinforcement that comes along with the tutor's enthusiasm, providing problem-solving strategies the youngsters may not have encountered in the classroom," said Miller.

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Even though the program will be on hiatus for a handful of weeks, the program is actively looking for volunteers for next year's program. Interested students, faculty and staff should e-mail [BreakfastForYourBrain@nps.edu](mailto:BreakfastForYourBrain@nps.edu).

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